



April 27, 2017

The Honorable C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho  
Idaho State Capitol  
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

We are writing on behalf of the Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission (LINE) to report to you the activities of the Commission over the past year and provide a sense of where we intend to focus in the year ahead.

The LINE Commission ended 2015 and began 2016 with an intent to revitalize its subcommittee structure, explore in greater detail the cleanup challenges facing DOE, focus a portion of its work on the research quantities issue, conduct meetings throughout the state of Idaho, educate Commissioners on the 1995 Settlement Agreement, support the ongoing research activities of Idaho National Laboratory, and determine ways in which the state can make progress on the establishment of a talent pipeline that can meet the needs of the Lab and other Idaho employers.

We are pleased to report that the Commission has made progress on each of these goals and much more. Among the activities undertaken by the Commission are the following:

- Our January 7, 2016 meeting focused its efforts on the Administration's Gateway to Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear initiative and on the development of a talent pipeline. Among the topics we discussed were the following:
  - The Commission heard from the Department of Energy's Idaho Office regarding updates on issues associated with the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and other prominent cleanup activities in the Idaho desert;
  - The Commission appreciated hearing directly from you at this meeting, listened closely to your words of encouragement and the direction you provided, and appreciated your recognition of the efforts of our former Chairman, Jeff Sayer.
  
- In July, we took the LINE Commission to Pocatello and Idaho State University as part of our efforts to have more regional significance across Idaho. Among the issues discussed were the following:

- We heard from Doug Sayer, Chief Business Office of Premier Technology, regarding the challenges he faces in securing a reliable talent flow to meet the needs of his growing company. His presentation provoked an spirited conversation among Commissioners – a conversation that continued throughout the year in several forums;
  - We heard from the new cleanup contractor, Fluor Idaho, about their background and plans for the future;
  - We formed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Small Modular Reactors, chaired by Megan Ronk and Rebecca Casper;
  - The Commission agreed to send a letter to the Department of Energy in support of the ongoing Consent-Based Siting Process under the leadership of Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy John Kotek.
- In October, we continued our effort at enhancing the Commission's regional relevance by holding our fall meeting in Coeur d'Alene. We appreciated the participation of Senator Bob Nonini and Representative Don Cheatham and then-candidate Paul Amador in the meeting. Among the topics we discussed were the following:
    - We heard directly from representatives of INL about their plans to partner with the State Board of Education in building two new facilities on their Idaho Falls campus. The buildings would house work associated with cyber security and nuclear modeling and simulation. The Commission voted to endorse the project and send you a support letter indicating our support for the concept. The joint State of Idaho/Idaho National Laboratory effort to partner in the construction of two new research facilities is directly related to recommendations provided by LINE Commission 1.0;
    - We kicked off our effort to reformulate, revitalize, and re-populate our subcommittee structure with the intent of having fewer subcommittees, with less members, and that were more focused on the issues of most importance to the future of nuclear energy and INL;
    - We received a presentation by Kirk Sorenson on the potential of Molten Salt Reactors and the utilization of Thorium as a fuel source;
    - We heard briefly from Mark Rudin on the progress of the Secretary of Energy's Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee. The Committee's deliberations included significant consideration of INL's importance to the future of nuclear energy.
- In January of this year, we held our annual winter meeting in the State Capitol. Once again, we heard from you, appreciated your encouragement and direction, and took to heart your request for an annual report in the form of this letter. Among the topics we discussed were the following:
    - We received an update on the Presidential transition from the Office of Nuclear Energy's Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ray Furstenau;

- We heard a presentation from Dr. John Sackett on the final report of the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee;
- We heard a presentation from the United States Navy on the Naval Reactors Facility and on the Navy's plan to build a \$1.6 billion expended core facility and associated support facilities in Idaho;
- DOE-ID updated the Commission on the progress of cleanup;
- NuScale Power and Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems provided an update on the progress of a proposed Small Modular Reactor project to be built within the boundaries of INL;
- The Commission heard three presentations on the 1995 Idaho Settlement Agreement and engaged in a discussion regarding its impact to ongoing research at INL;
- The Commission agreed to contact the Department of Energy to express its support for re-starting shipments of TRU waste to WIPP and to encourage the DOE to place Idaho's shipments at the top of the priority list.

At each of the Commission meetings, we afforded time to Commissioners for their comments and suggestions and provided time for public comment. We appreciated the input we received from members of the public who attended Commission meetings and will continue to consider those comments as we move forward.

As we look to the future, we are excited and optimistic about the future of INL in Idaho and as an integral part of our nation's long-term energy and national security strategy. The Lab is growing, vibrant, healthy, and poised for the future. Still, risks and challenges abound, and we believe it is critical that the Commission understand those risks, work to address or mitigate them, and encourage the State and its people to take ownership of their role in protecting and encouraging DOE's long-term presence in Idaho. With that in mind, we will be considering the following as we look forward to the rest of 2017 and beyond:

- We appreciate your continued focus on K-Career education. Your leadership is critical to establishing the talent pipeline needed to ensure a skilled workforce is available for INL and industry in the years and decades ahead.
- We appreciate your support of a community college based in Idaho Falls. It is also essential to meeting the workforce needs of the future.
- The Commission has concluded its re-organization of its subcommittees. Those subcommittees have had initial meetings and will begin work immediately on the focused charges that each has been provided. We have attached an overview of the subcommittee structure to this letter.
- We remain intent on further exploration of the impact the 1995 Settlement Agreement is having not just on cleanup in Idaho, but on the future of research and development at INL. The Lab has

evolved considerably since the inception of the Agreement. We believe the Commission should support, and facilitate, a robust dialogue aimed at updating the Agreement in ways that would ensure a continued commitment to cleanup while facilitating the long-term vibrancy of INL.

- We intend to focus our upcoming meetings on the development of not only SMRs, but other advanced reactor technologies. We believe there are opportunities that exist not only for INL or NuScale, but for the attraction of new industry to Idaho that would meet the supply chain for future advanced reactor development. We expect to explore how Idaho can become a leader in this area and what the state might do to support these activities moving forward. We also need to fully understand the barriers to the development of these technologies and how we might address those barriers.
- We held our April meeting at the Fort Hall Event Center. The discussion focused on advanced reactor development, cleanup progress, updates from the subcommittees, a discussion on the 1995 Settlement Agreement, the potential re-use of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project, and other topics. We received a presentation from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and took public comments. We will report on this meeting in more detail in our report next year.
- We intend to hold the next LINE meeting in Twin Falls in order to continue our goal of establishing statewide relevance and attracting the attention of the entire population of Idaho to the work of the Commission and INL.

In closing, we appreciate the attention and support you have given to the work of the LINE Commission and for the leadership you have shown, in concert with the Idaho State Legislature, on the issues that are important to the future of nuclear energy and INL.

We look forward to our continued consultations with you and your staff as we move forward and stand ready to assist you and the Legislature in any way that we can to influence state policy in a positive way.

Sincerely,



John Grossenbacher  
Co-Chair



Lt. Gov. Brad Little  
Co-Chair